

Executive Summary

As a part of the 2015 Homeless Crisis Response Program, Region 5 will provide homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing services in Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull Counties. To accomplish this objective, Coleman Professional Services is collaborating with the following seven partner agencies: Ashtabula County Community Housing Development Organization, Catholic Charities of Ashtabula County, Humility of Mary/Emmanuel Care Center, Family & Community Services, Lifeline, Inc., Trumbull County Mental Health and Recovery Board, and WomenSafe, Inc.

The program targets single adults and families who are homeless or imminently homeless. Households who are literally homeless will receive rapid-re-housing assistance and households who have lost housing or are imminently homeless will receive prevention assistance to establish new housing. All households served will meet income guidelines of below 30% of Area Median Income, with income verification occurring at intake.

Intake is coordinated at multiple locations throughout the region, adopting as many common practices as possible and using the “no wrong door” policy ensuring that regardless of entry point they are seamlessly routed to the program(s) that best meets their needs.

Region 5 offers a variety of methods for clients to gain information and request services. Individuals and families can enter the system through phone contact with a variety of providers (including housing providers, eviction/foreclosure service providers, and substance abuse treatment or mental health providers), through local hotlines, or through a 2-1-1 call. Service can also be initiated through in-person contact in a variety of settings, such as with these providers, with an outreach worker, or with institutional staff.

All counties in the region use the same Barrier Assessment questions to evaluate the level of assistance required for each homeless household and triages clients to the appropriate local program based on the assessment results and the program’s requirements. Region 5 also uses coordinated diversion tools, allowing providers to divert those with sufficient self-sufficiency and access to resources from shelter beds. This similarity in approach, logistics, and tools has led to greater consistency in intake.

The program will provide short and medium-term rental/financial assistance based on individual needs. Funds will be used to assist those served in a variety of ways, including: security deposit, rent/arrears, utility deposit/payments, moving expenses, hotel expenses, housing inspections, donations to furnish their new homes, and services to assist with stabilization in their new housing and decrease the likelihood that they would become homeless again.

It is projected that 353 households including as many as 505 individuals will either be prevented from experiencing/returning to homelessness, retain permanent housing or move into permanent housing from literal homelessness. The Region’s number of households served when “at capacity” is 353. It is anticipated average length of stay and percentage of persons exiting to permanent destinations will be similar to the results of our 2014 APR:

Program	Population Category	Average Length of Stay	% Exiting to Permanent Destination
Homelessness Prevention	Leavers (195)	54	98% (191)
	Stayers (54)	90	n/a
Rapid Rehousing	Leavers (257)	85	93% (240)
	Stayers (118)	91	n/a
WomenSafe	Leavers (2)	25	50% (1)*
	Stayers (15)	90	n/a

* One leaver falls in the “Don’t Know/Refused” category with regard to Destination